

Appl. No. 10/800,371
Substitute Amdt. dated March 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action of December 26, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 3, 7-18 and 22-30 have been cancelled without prejudice in any manner. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to more distinctly claim the invention. Hence, claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 19-21 are pending. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated allowable subject matter for claims 1, 2, 4-9, 20, and 21.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1, 2, 4-9 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph. In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 based on the Examiner's suggestion without prejudice in any manner. Additionally, Applicant has canceled claims 7-9 without prejudice in any manner. Therefore, claims 1, 2, and 4-6 should now be allowed.

Claims 20 and 21

The Examiner has indicated that claims 20 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 20 in its original form depends from claim 19, and claim 21 depends from claim 20. For claim 19, the only rejection made by the Examiner is the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph. In response, Applicant has amended claim 19 based on the Examiner's suggestion without prejudice in any manner. Additionally, Applicant has rewritten claim 19 to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, claims 19-21 should now be allowed.

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Claim Objections

In the Office Action mailed December 26, 2006, claim 12 was objected to because of certain informality. In order to expedite prosecution of the above identified application, claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice in any manner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

In the Office Action mailed December 26, 2006, claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as the invention. In order to expedite prosecution of the above identified application, claims 1 and 19 have been amended based on the Examiner's suggestion. Also, claims 7-9 have been canceled without prejudice in any manner. Hence, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph have been overcome.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action mailed December 26, 2006, claims 3, 10, 15-18, 22, 23 and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fee in view of Sahin et al. Additionally, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fee and Sahin et al, and in further view of Cerisola et al. Moreover, claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fee, Sahin et al, and Cerisola et al, and in further view of applicant admitted prior art. Also, claims 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fee and Sahin et al, and in further view of applicant admitted prior art.

Applicant respectfully traverses all these rejections. But in order to expedite prosecution of the above identified application, claims 3, 10-18 and 22-30 have been cancelled without prejudice in any manner.

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PATENTCONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Mao
Reg. No. 51,995

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
DM:ejt
61009105 v1